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TECHNICAL NOTE	Number	514
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TITLE:	Serial RAM Cartridge Formatting/Recovery
ABSTRACT:	Diagnostic and preparation procedures for Serial Ram Cartridges

Serial RAM cartridges supplied by Husky Computers Ltd. are shipped in an unformatted state and MUST be formatted by the end user before use. Attempting to write data to an unformatted RAM cartridge can cause a processor crash which requires a low level format for recovery.

1. DOS FORMATING.

To access the Serial RAM Cartridge from DOS the CDISK device driver must be loaded via the CONFIG.SYS file. The Serial RAM Cartridge can then be formatted using the DOS FORMAT command as if it were a floppy disk.

2. CPM FORMATTING.

To format the Serial RAM Cartridge to CPM format the PC utility PCAR must be used. This utility is a CPM to DOS interface program and will format the Serial RAM Cartridge for use on the Husky Hunter1 and Husky Hunter2.

3. RECOVERY

If data is written to the Serial RAM Cartridge before it has been formatted then this may cause a processor crash and the cartridge will not respond correctly to any further attempts to access. This problem is particularly prevalent in the DOS environment and even DOS FORMAT will not recover the cartridge.

To recover a crashed cartridge the PC utility PCAR is required. Select the 'Format Cartridge' option and the message 'bad power down last time' is displayed. Select 'Format Cartridge' option again and the format will proceed. For CPM users the cartridge is now ready for use, DOS users must also use the DOS FORMAT command before the cartridge is ready for use.

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Itronix (UK) Limited, Eden Road, Walsgrave Triangle Business Park, Coventry CV2 2TB, Telephone Coventry (024) 76 604040.